



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

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Traditions of Caring - Training for Relatives and Kinship Caregivers 1-14-2008

The Traditions of Caring training is geared to focus on issues that arise with familial relationships.

Definitions:

- Relative Caregiver - A person related to a child through a biological or marital/civil union connection.
 - Kinship Caregiver - A person having a psychological, emotional, or long-term relationship with a child that is not through a biological or marital/civil union connection.
- Objectives of the Traditions of Caring workshop:
- Understanding the Child Welfare Service System - Gives the caregiver an understanding of the child welfare service system, including how services are organized, the availability of help and support, and ways to work effectively within the system.
 - Supporting Healthy Development and Managing Loss - Provides information and support in the areas of child growth and development, and how separation, grief and loss impacts a child's growth and development.
 - Identifying and Meeting Special Needs - Discussion of areas of special interest for the caregiver, as related to the special needs of children who have been separated from their biological parents and might have experienced significant trauma.
 - Providing Guidance and Discipline - Focuses specifically on the challenges of providing children with guidance and discipline.

- Connecting Child to Safe, Nurturing, Lifelong Relationships - Explores the child's need for permanent connections, the role of the legal system in helping establish permanency for a child, and the role of the caregiver in helping to ensure permanence for the child.